

THE BEST AMERICAN

Comics

2006

EDITED *and with an*

INTRODUCTION *by* HARVEY PEKAR

ANNE ELIZABETH MOORE,

series editor



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1992, FREEDOM CORNER,
NAIROBI, KENYA, WOMEN
WERE ON HUNGER STRIKE
BECAUSE THEIR SONS
HAD BEEN PUT
IN PRISON
BY THE
DICTATOR,
DANIEL ARAP
MOI.

MOI DOES NOT LET US GROW FOOD,
HE MAKES US GROW COFFEE FOR
EXPORT INSTEAD.



BETTER TO STARVE IN PUBLIC.



POLICE



ATTACKED



RUTH WANGARI
COVERED HER
HEAD TO
PROTECT
AGAINST
TEAR GAS.



BUT
WHEN
SHE
LOOKED
UP, SHE
SAW



POLICE
ABOUT
TO

SHOOT
A
YOUNG
MAN.



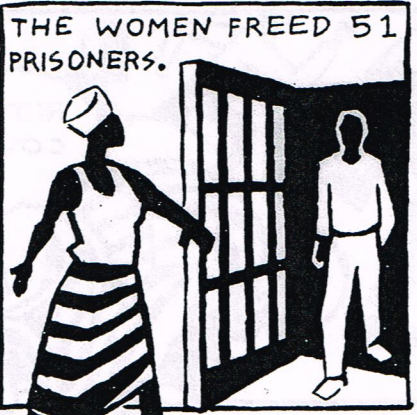
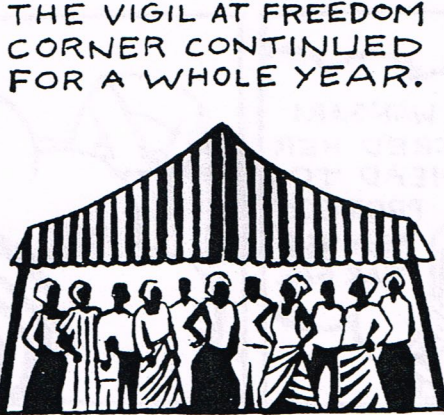
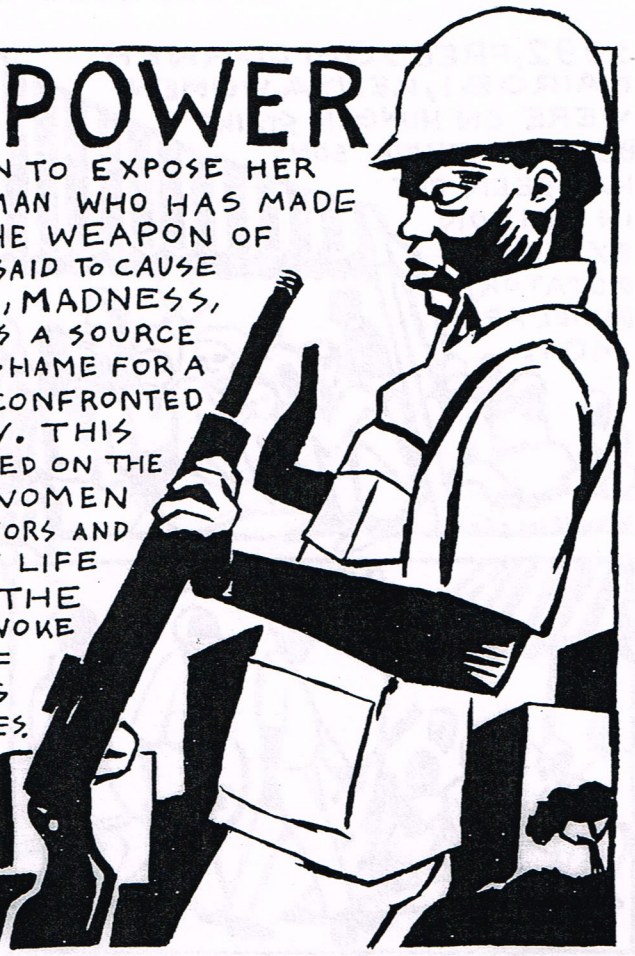
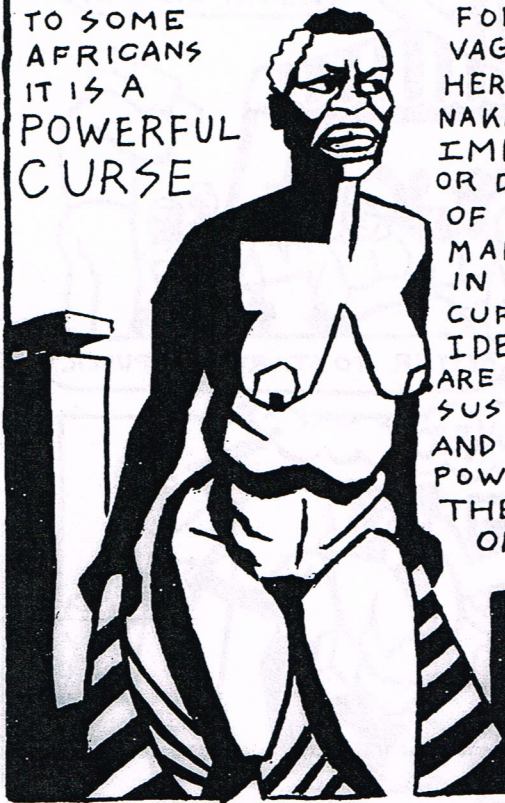
RUTH
WANGARI
TORE
OFF
HER
CLOTHES.

FROM World War 3 Illustrated

NAKEDNESS AND POWER

TO SOME AFRICANS IT IS A POWERFUL CURSE

FOR A WOMAN TO EXPOSE HER VAGINA TO A MAN WHO HAS MADE HER ANGRY. THE WEAPON OF NAKEDNESS IS SAID TO CAUSE IMPOTENCE, MADNESS, OR DEATH. IT IS A SOURCE OF LIFELONG SHAME FOR A MAN TO BE CONFRONTED IN THIS WAY. THIS CURSE IS BASED ON THE IDEA THAT WOMEN ARE THE CREATORS AND SUSTAINERS OF LIFE AND SO HAVE THE POWER TO REVOKE THE LIVES OF OFFENDING MALES.



INSPIRED BY THE ACTION AT FREEDOM CORNER, FARMERS RIPPED OUT COFFEE AND PLANTED FOOD TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES. THE LANDLESS POOR ALSO SEIZED LAND ON WHICH TO GROW FOOD.



THEN THEY TORE
OUT THE
DICTATORSHIP
OF DANIEL
ARAP
MOI,



AND PLANTED A NEW
GOVERNMENT,
MORE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE PEOPLE,
WHICH INCLUDED
SOME OF THOSE
WHO HAD
PARTICIPATED
IN THE
PROTEST
AT
FREEDOM
CORNER.



THE
STRUGGLE
OF RURAL
AFRICAN
WOMEN HAS
A MESSAGE

FOR
THE
WORLD.



MANY PEOPLE IN NIGERIA FEED
THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH
HUNTING,
FISHING,
AND

FARMING.

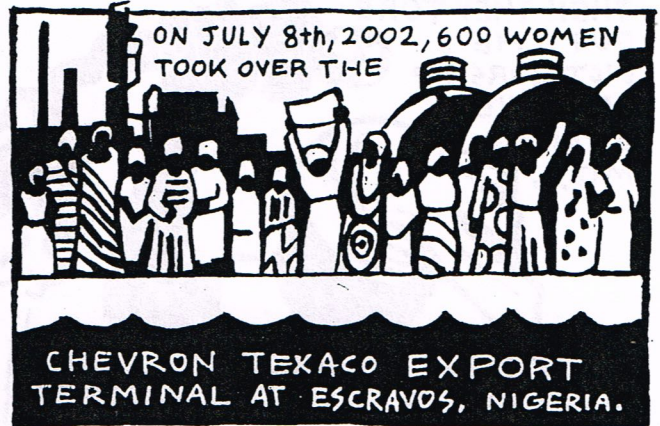
BUT IN THE 1970s THE OIL BOOM
DISRUPTED THIS WAY OF LIFE.
THE GOVERNMENT FORCED FOLKS
TO ALLOW COMPANIES TO LAY
PIPELINE RIGHT THROUGH FARMS
AND VILLAGES. PIPES LEAKED,
CAUSING OIL FIRES TO BURN
DAY & NIGHT, FOR YEARS, SCARING
AWAY ANIMALS, POLLUTING
LAND, AIR,
WATER.

FOLKS MUST HARVEST CROPS AMID
SMOKE & FLAMES. FISH DIE FROM
OIL SPILLS. IN SOME VILLAGES THERE
IS NO CLEAN DRINKING WATER.
SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF OIL
THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING
IN POVERTY HAS
TRIPLED.





FOR YEARS NIGERIANS HAVE RESISTED THESE CONDITIONS.



ON JULY 8th, 2002, 600 WOMEN TOOK OVER THE

CHEVRON TEXACO EXPORT TERMINAL AT ESCRAVOS, NIGERIA.

THE TAKEOVER LASTED 10 DAYS. WOMEN NEGOTIATED 26 DEMANDS WITH CHEVRON.



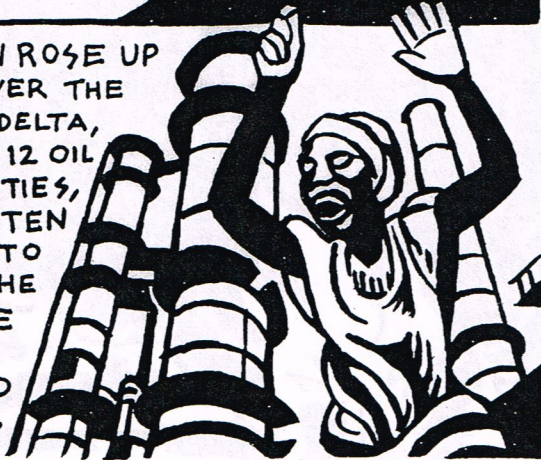
BUT ONE DEMAND

CHEVRON WOULD NOT DISCUSS;

WHEN WE WERE HERE WITHOUT CHEVRON, LIFE WAS NATURAL & SWEET, WE WOULD GO TO THE RIVERS FOR FISHING, THE FORESTS FOR HUNTING. BUT TODAY THE EXPERIENCE IS SAD. I AM SUGGESTING THEY SHOULD LEAVE OUR COMMUNITY COMPLETELY AND NEVER COME BACK.



WOMEN ROSE UP ALL OVER THE NIGER DELTA, TAKING 12 OIL FACILITIES, THREATENING TO USE THE CURSE OF NAKEDNESS.



THEY SHUT DOWN 40% OF NIGERIA'S OIL PRODUCTION.



IT COST THE NIGERIAN STATE \$11 MILLION AND THE COMPANIES \$2.5 MILLION PER DAY.

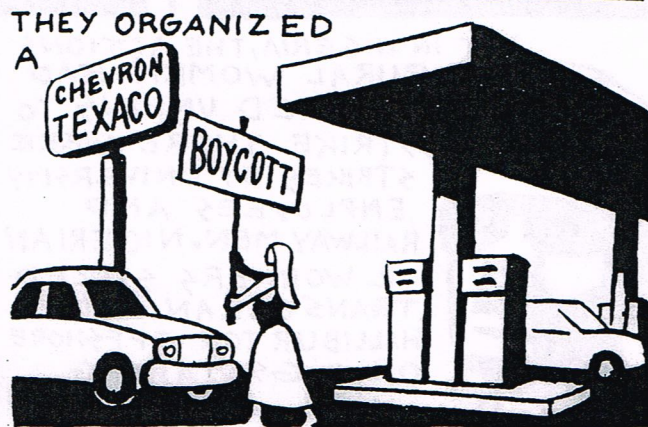
IN RETALIATION, OIL COMPANY SECURITY GUARDS RAPED DOZENS OF WOMEN DURING A PROTEST AT AN OIL COMPANY HEADQUARTERS.



THE WOMEN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DEMAND REPARATIONS FOR THE RAPES, THREATENING TO USE THE CURSE OF NAKEDNESS.

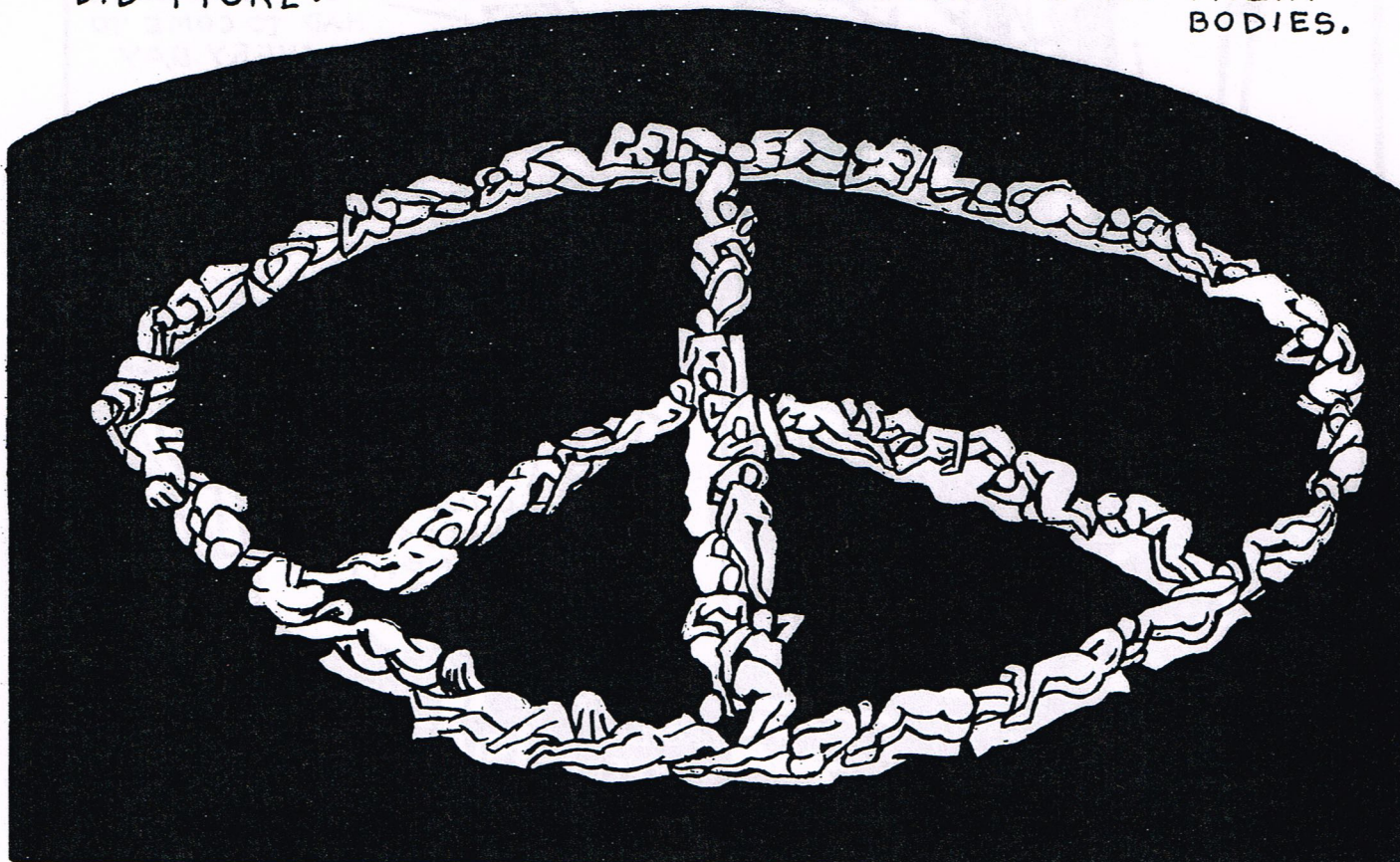


WE HAVE DECIDED TO DIE AT CHEVRON'S GATE INSTEAD OF SLOWLY FROM OIL SPILLS.



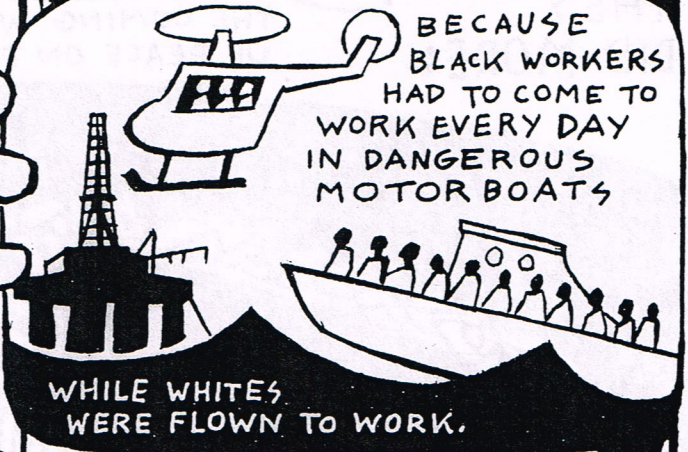
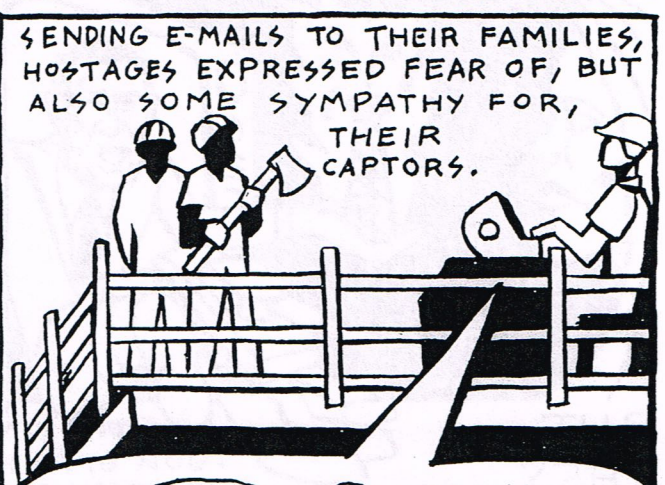
BUT THEY DID MORE:

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO SOUTH AMERICA, WOMEN TOOK OFF THEIR CLOTHES TO PROTEST AGAINST THE COMING WAR IN IRAQ, PAINTING SYMBOLS OF PEACE ON THE HILLSIDES WITH THEIR BODIES.





BUT IN NIGERIA, THE ACTIONS OF RURAL WOMEN HAD INSPIRED UNIONS TO STRIKE. THERE WERE STRIKES BY UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES AND RAILWAY MEN. NIGERIAN OIL WORKERS SEIZED TRANSOCEAN AND HALLIBURTON OFFSHORE OIL RIGS, TAKING BRITISH WORKERS HOSTAGE.

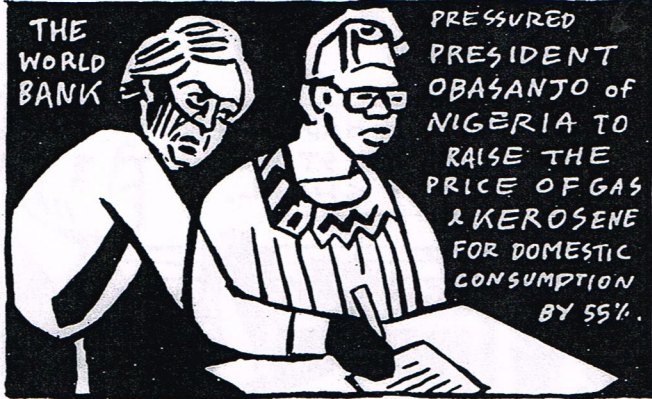


THE NIGERIAN NAVY WAS READY TO STORM THE OIL RIGS. IT WAS RUMORED THAT THEY WERE BRINGING BRITISH MERCENARIES, BUT THE OIL WORKERS UNION THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN ALL OIL PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA IF FORCE WAS USED.



SO THE OIL COMPANIES AGREED TO SOME OF THE WORKERS' DEMANDS. THE STAND OFF

ENDED PEACEFULLY.



THE WORLD BANK

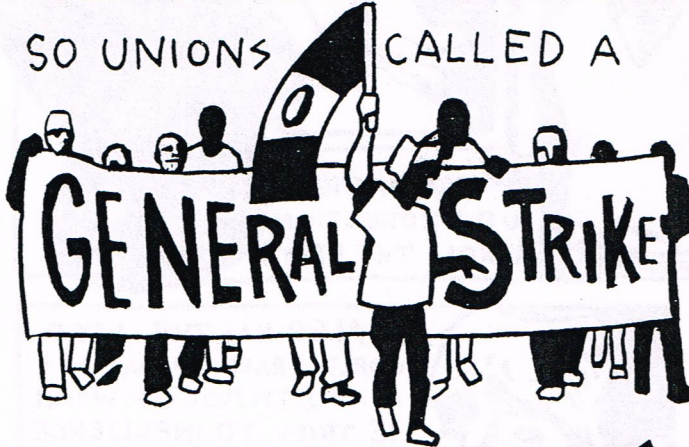
PRESSED PRESIDENT OBASANTO OF NIGERIA TO RAISE THE PRICE OF GAS & KEROSENE FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION BY 55%.



THIS WAS THE KEROSENE FOLKS USED TO COOK

FOOD

SO UNIONS CALLED A



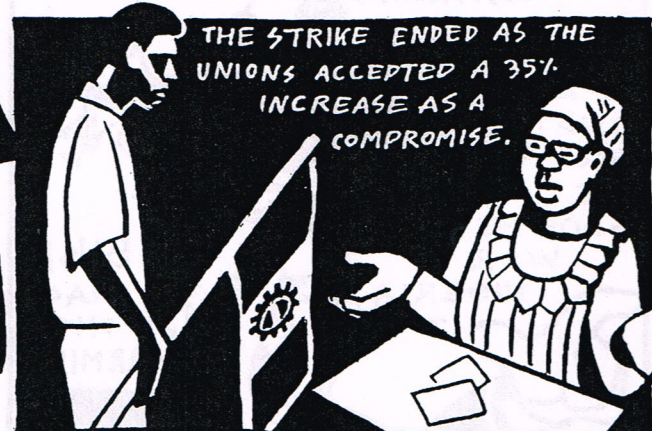
GENERAL STRIKE



MARKET WOMEN CLOSED THE MARKET TO KEEP THE STRIKE GOING.

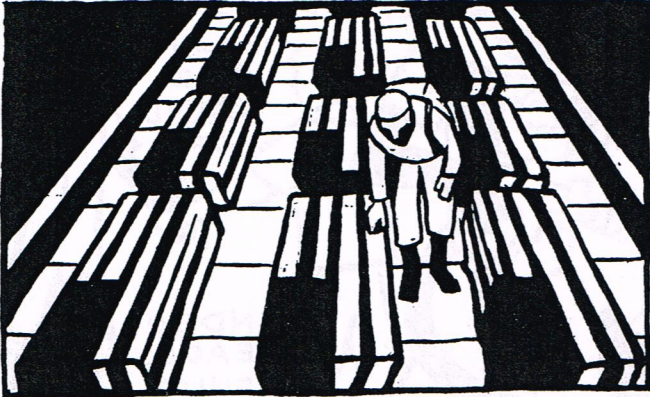


THE STRIKE LED TO RIOTS.



THE STRIKE ENDED AS THE UNIONS ACCEPTED A 35% INCREASE AS A COMPROMISE.

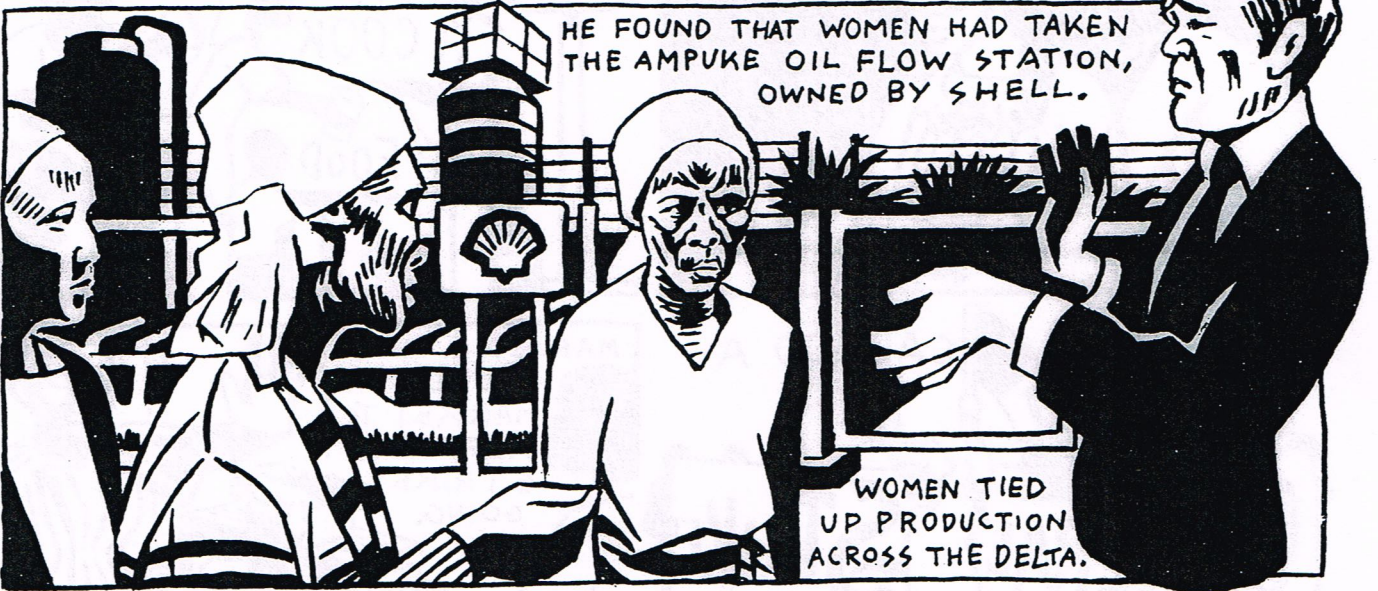
MEANWHILE, THE WAR IN IRAQ WAS LOOKING LESS LIKE A VICTORY.



WITH THE MIDDLE EAST IN FLAMES, THERE WAS INTEREST IN DEVELOPING OTHER SOURCES OF OIL.



ON JULY 11th, 2003, BUSH WENT TO NIGERIA TO OPEN A NEW OIL FIELD.



HE FOUND THAT WOMEN HAD TAKEN THE AMPUKE OIL FLOW STATION, OWNED BY SHELL.

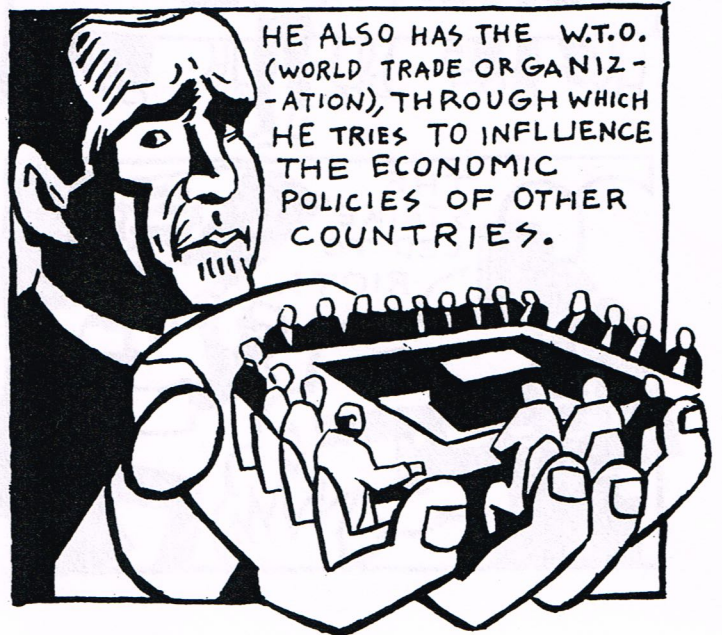
WOMEN TIED UP PRODUCTION ACROSS THE DELTA.



SO BUSH MOVED

U.S. TROOPS FROM BASES IN GERMANY TO AFRICA. THAT'S RIGHT, WE MAY SOON BE AT WAR IN NIGERIA TOO.

BUSH HAS HIS ARMIES.



HE ALSO HAS THE W.T.O. (WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION), THROUGH WHICH HE TRIES TO INFLUENCE THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 2003, THE W.T.O. MET IN CANCUN. PEOPLE CAME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO PROTEST AGAINST THE MEETING.

